

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
UI Reemployment Services Grant
PY04 Plan

A. Background and Need: Colorado's regional workforce service providers are currently operating in a jobless economic recovery with increased demand for services. During calendar year 2003, the State's unemployment rate averaged 6%, up from a decade low of 2.2% in May 2001. This translated to a significant increase in unemployment claims, comparing January 2001 to January 2002 and January 2003, although claim levels began a slow decrease during the first six months of 2004. The number of new claimant registrations for PY03 remained at approximately the same level as PY02, further indication of a stalled economic recovery. Industries that continue to be hit by layoffs are telecommunications and other high tech sectors as well as transportation, tourism, and financial services. Although Colorado is currently experiencing some job growth, these new openings most frequently occur in the services industry and pay on average considerably less than the jobs of dislocation.

To implement the PY03 grant, Colorado chose to disseminate funds for direct client services to all local workforce regions. The objective for Colorado's Reemployment Services Grants was to increase UI claimant usage of One-Stop services through a targeted case management approach and achieve an entered employment rate for the case-managed claimants that was higher than that of all UI claimants. Colorado conducted an assessment of the PY03 local grants in the late spring of 2004 as part of its annual WIA and Wagner-Peyser compliance reviews. Program monitors identified some weaknesses in the grants and provided technical assistance to help correct the deficiencies. At the same time two of the projects showed stronger performance outcomes as a result of targeted job development activities and systematic follow-up with case-managed claimants.

B. Program Design/Linkages/One-Stop Service Delivery: Having established the case management strategy for UI claimants as a successful model, Colorado has opted to continue use of the PY03 allocation formula process to disseminate PY04 funds to all regions and subregions, with the exception of El Paso/Teller. (This region has declined participation in the UI Reemployment Services program.) Additionally, three of the regions have been given an increase in funds to allow for a more equitable distribution of funds across the State. The allocation formula is based on the number of UI claimant exhaustees in a region/subregion as a percentage of the total exhaustees for the State. Funds will be allocated as follows:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>REGION</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Adams	\$ 31,120.00	6.4%	Rural (8 sub-regions)	\$125,814.00	26.2%
Arapahoe	\$ 99,430.00	20.7%	Mesa	\$ 38,263.00	8.0%
Boulder	\$ 23,868.00	5.0%	Tri-County	\$ 41,096.00	8.6%
Denver	\$ 57,803.00	12.0%	Weld	\$ 24,667.00	5.1%
Larimer	\$ 38,263.00	8.0%			
			TOTAL	\$480,324.00	100.0%

Each region will be using a case management approach to provide ongoing services, with an emphasis on job search workshops, job clubs, and other staff-assisted job search strategies. In addition, the regional employer services staff will be targeting employer contacts to job develop for the UI case-managed clients. Because Colorado's workforce regions have integrated a variety of partner agency services within their full-service one-stop centers, UI claimants served by the grant will also have access to WIA and TAA/NAFTA training services as well as intensive services, as appropriate, from vocational rehabilitation, mental health, older worker, and human services programs. Case managers may also refer claimants to off-site partner agencies including adult education and community services block grant recipients.

C. Planned Performance Outcomes

First quarter PY03 funding was made available to the workforce regions as soon as the State received the Federal notice of obligational authority. Regions submitted plans for an eleven-month period of performance beginning August 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004. Total planned enrollments and outcomes for each region are as follows:

Workforce Region	Total Enrollments	Total Entered Employments*	Percent Entered Employment**
Adams	115	26	23%
Arapahoe/Douglas	700	140	20%
Boulder	150	75	50%
Denver	250	47	13%
El Paso Teller	115	25	22%
Larimer	65	30	30%
Mesa (sub-region)	160	120	75%
Rural Consortium (w/o Mesa)	200	100	50%
Tri-County	60	40	67%
Weld	300	90	30%
Statewide Total	2115	693*	32.8%**

* Based on real-time data-entered obtained employments and job placements – old ES definition

** The PY03 statewide goal was 26% and has been raised to 32.8% for PY04.

All data captured for this program will automatically be available for use in the new ES9002 report, which is utilized to report the Federally-mandated ES performance outcomes. This report will be modified as needed to accommodate changes that the forthcoming common performance measures may require. Because Colorado requires use of Wagner-Peyser funds in one program year, wage-based measures may be useful for long-term program evaluation.

D. Budget

The State will be using a portion of the funds for administrative costs as needed, which may include voice response maintenance charges. During PY01 Colorado developed an auto-dialer (voice response) system to automate calls made to clients regarding job openings, special events such as job fairs, and follow-up on job status. Because UI claimants represent over 50% of the registrants who will benefit from the automated calling process, system maintenance costs may be partially covered by the UI Reemployment Services Grant. The total PY04 allocation and PY03 carry-in will be used as follows:

PY04 Allocation	\$482,490.00
PY03 Carry-in	<u>43,804.53</u>
TOTAL	\$526,294.53

Direct Services	\$480,324.00	91.3%
Administration	<u>45,970.53</u>	<u>8.7%</u>
TOTAL	\$526,294.53	100.0%*

Because of the delay in receipt of PY04 funds, grant expenditures will occur during PY04 and PY05. At this time the anticipated carry-in of PY04 funds to PY05 is anticipated to be 25%, with 100% of expenditures occurring by December 31, 2005.